



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

NEWSLETTER

*Editor Mary Wallace
Nov Edition 1/2011*

Calendar of Events

30 Apr to 2 May Region Scout Camp Rowallan Park

Acting Region Commissioner's Report

As you are no doubt aware, Lance Hodda has resigned as Region Commissioner.

Lance's job takes him away from home regularly, and he found there were not enough hours at weekends to devote to his Scouting role, and also to his family. He felt he was left with no choice, and his family must take first priority, so with much regret he decided to resign as Region Commissioner. He has told me he does not want to leave Scouting completely, so after a well deserved rest, we will look at finding a new role for him. He has, in fact, been helping in the Scout Section at Sarina for some time now too.

I know you join me in thanking Lance for the considerable time, effort and dedication he has devoted to Scouting as our Region Commissioner over the last four years. Thanks Lance. You have big shoes to fill, but I will do my best to fill them.

I wish to report on the recent Region Commissioners Professional development Conference I attended in Brisbane.

State President Craig Ray spoke about the new Executive committee, the 2020 Plan, finances and the importance of considering our duty of care. (Legislation and Workplace, Health and Safety etc.)

We were shown a brief slide show of the flood around the Queensland Scout Centre and the subsequent damage it caused to the building. The Chief provided an update in relation to the current situation and advised that a decision from the insurer should be forthcoming very soon.

The Chief also advised that we are currently working with a substantially reduced number of staff members. It is the intention to move back into the Scout Centre as soon as possible.

There is currently a backlog of membership application forms.

The Children's Commission is currently behind in processing Blue Card applications. As long as the A1 form is submitted, Leaders are able to participate in training, even though they are not yet in the Scout Membership system.

Training is running a pilot for Group Leaders. The aim being to possibly reduce the time spent on training content.

E- learning still has a number of errors so Qld. Will not be using it until we are comfortable that it is working effectively – possibly June 2011.

We want to develop procedures to more adequately support Leaders who accept Leader in Charge responsibility.

We discussed at length prerequisites for Leaders prior to commencing Specialist Outdoor Activity Training

All buildings are to be insured at replacement cost. Other insurance matters have already been conveyed to Group Leaders.

Formations are to be encouraged to pay outstanding debts to Branch as a matter of priority.

Insurance premiums are likely to increase.

Applications for grants are to be encouraged. I will go into more detail with Group Leaders. The Chief raised concerns in relation to the number that some Groups nominate to call a Special meeting.

Groups are required to register trailers in the Associations name and to ensure they are insured

properly. The Association is also tax exempt, which should benefit the Group.

When buying from Scout Supply Centre the profits go back into the movement, not so with Snowgum. Scout Supply Centre is now doing mail orders. \$55000 worth of stock was written off after the floods.

Chartering is now a compulsory process. Chartering is striving for a minimum standard.

Membership fees for flood/cyclone affected areas were discussed, but as this does not affect us there is no need to go into details here.

Payment by credit card of Youth membership before the invoices are sent out is not allowed. If done, it becomes very difficult to allocate the money, as it will need to be held until the invoices are raised to match it.

Holding Sign on Days could be beneficial.

We are working toward Section Leaders having access to SMS for their Sections on a read only basis. A notice will go in Encompass when this is available. There will be some other changes to SMS too.

Over aged Youth Helpers and Youth Members was discussed.

A1 and A5 forms were both previously carbon copy forms. Both are now electronic and available on the website, with link to attachments for the A1. We are waiting to see if scanned copies are legally sufficient.

The term "Region/District Advisor" is discarded. They will be known as "Region Leader"

We are looking at revamping Release and Indemnity form.

Adult Recognition Awards was discussed as some Branches differ in ideas regarding them. Queensland Branch ensures the higher award recipients have a Wood Badge.

Change of Strategy – World Scouting was reported and discussed.

Rover Review Progress Report: The suggestion that the upper age limit be reduced to about 21, on the basis that they will become Leaders instead of

remaining in the Rover Section was discussed and consequently no reduction in age was the Region Commissioner's consensus.

Messengers for Peace falls in line with our 2020 Plan – ethnic and environment and it was considered to be a worthwhile project.

Brian Harvey – Acting Region Commissioner.

Bowen Scout Group Report

Greetings to all from Bowen – hope the weather has been kind to you. It has been a reasonably quiet start to the year for our Scouts with the troop in wind-down mode; however, our Cub Scouts are moving from strength to strength.

Cub Scouts have been busy bushwalking, swimming and camping with another Grey Wolf not too far away and by the time you read this our Cub Scout Leaders will have completed LT3 in Townsville. It is only in the last 6 months our pack has had the numbers to have a functioning Six system with a reasonable cross section of ages and abilities and I see the numbers in the Pack growing little by little. I am optimistic about the future for our Cub Scouts.

Sadly, our Scout section has closed its doors at 31 March – hopefully for only a short while. With the help of some dedicated parent helpers, we had managed to build the troop up to 20 youth attending each week, and following the anticipated drop in numbers over Christmas, still had 13 regular attendees. They were a pleasure to work with and it saddens me to find no one willing to help by putting on a uniform.

From a Cub Scout perspective, the closing of our Scout troop does not offer promise for the near future. As the Pack is maturing, the older Cub Scouts will be looking ahead and wondering if this is the end for them. The challenge now facing our Group is to work doubly hard to re-open the troop doors in time for those youth to continue in their Scouting career.

When considering where to put my GL energies over the last few years I had to answer the question 'what comes first, the chicken or the egg?', for I am unable to do too many things at once. A Scout Group does not exist without youth, so that is where I directed my energy. All around

us is the emphasis on youth so it must come first. I don't think I was entirely correct!

The silent partner, the one you do not see much of – the non-uniformed (and uniformed) support at a local level is the ingredient I believe supports the entire Scouting structure. I do not think we should draw the local level organisation chart as a circular diagram, nor should it be horizontal with each component balanced equally with the GL sitting between them. It is an inverted pyramid at the bottom of which is the support – the foundation the rest builds upon. This small but essential group of non-uniformed and uniformed people maintains the section Leadership – the middle level. Above the section Leaders and far greater in number are the youth. When you imagine what can happen if the foundation of an inverted pyramid is unstable, that is what has happened in Bowen.

Dwindling youth retention rates and overall membership decreases are often in the headlines. We don't often hear about Groups with inadequate support structures. The theory seems to be that if we keep the youth numbers up other things will look after themselves. It is not that simple. Youth numbers are not the be all and end all of Scouting – they are simply the first thing considered.

We see huge amounts of effort expended in both Leader training and youth development – fair enough - this is after all the public face of Scouting. Look behind these and what can you find? What goes on in the back yard of Scouting at a local level – what support is there for Group Committees?

Is there or should there be Association effort to ensure that support and assistance needed to remain viable, is available to Groups? What support is there to a Group Committee, and if a regional Group Committee is not functioning well, what options do youth in these areas have? It isn't as simple as moving to the neighbouring group.

In our case, the only support from within the organisation the Group Committee could fall back on, is that provided by the GL. Group Leaders are not Superman - even if they burst their boilers trying to be. Whilst trying to keep the doors of our Scout section open by working as a section leader for some years, I have used all my energy up. I have nothing left over to give the Committee to help them do their job. I now ask myself if there wasn't a better way to approach the situation.

Should Bowen youth be denied the opportunity to participate if their parents and guardians do not want to be involved? It is a hard truth to accept.

Within and beyond the main population centres of our state, smaller groups like Bowen face an inevitable slow demise. Most typically, it is due to Leader shortages. The Association does put effort into Leader recruitment advertising campaigns however in Bowen, this has shown no positive outcome. Even with Leaders in positions, Groups still need functioning committees and it seems to me that committees are where the problem lies. Leader shortage is the symptom. Group Committee apathy is the illness. Can more be done to address the problem, rather than putting band-aids on the symptom?

What are we doing 'on the ground', beyond youth & uniforms, to help those Groups that struggle to survive? Should this issue of Committee apathy - one dependant entirely on the GL – be able to make or break Groups when there are no alternative Groups to move to?

As I mentioned earlier, non-uniformed support at a local level is essential to meet the sustainability challenge. Bowen's problem was not money nor was it material assets. It was adults - not being able to find people for the job. But you cannot get people, unless you have people to do the getting! I would love to hear of any solutions you have found to the problem!

Lesley Bullemor, Group Leader

Whitsunday Scout Group

Whitsunday Group has only started up a few weeks ago with the Joey Scout Section the only section operating. We have participated in Clean up Australia and Harmony Day.

Hopefully next quarter I will have more news.

Kathy Ball, Group Leader

Region Scout Camp Reminder

Date: 30th April to 02nd May 2011

Time: Opening Parade – Sat 30 April – 09:30am

Closing Parade – Mon 02 May – 1:30pm

Place: Rowallan Park

Camp Fee: \$6 per camper (payable to the caretakers prior to departure on Monday 02 May 2011)

NOTE: The Region Camp Leader WILL NOT be collecting this fee.

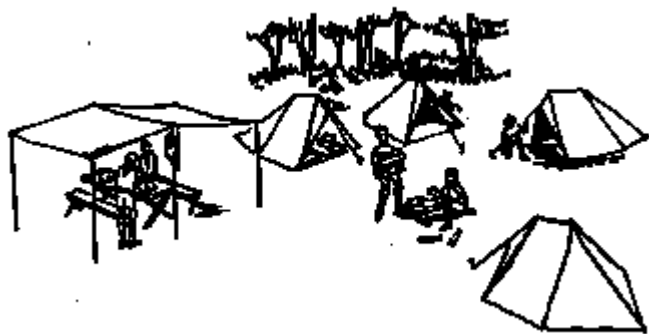
Activity Fee: \$4 per Scout (payable to “Scouts QLD – Central and Coastal Region” and given to the Region Camp Leader at registration time)

Closing Date: 16 April 2011

Kingfisher

Dougal McWhinney

Region Camp Leader



The wet weather that we have experienced for months now has been a major disruption for outdoor scouting activities. This newsletter is a little light on as regards to section reports and group reports. Enjoy the fill in items.

Mary Wallace

Region Leader Community Relations

A Skit

YAPOOCHA

A tribe of “Indians” are dancing around their fire, while the “Chief” sits cross legged to one side. After a while they all stop dancing, and one approaches the chief. “Oh Great Chief, is it time for Yapoocha?”

The chief looks up at the stars and the moon, then shakes his head. It is not yet time for Yapoocha.” The dance continues for a while, then stops and someone else approaches the chief and asks the same question.

Once again the chief looks at the stars and the moon and answers, “It is not yet time for Yapoocha.”

The dancing carries on again, then stops and yet another person approaches the chief.

This time the chief looks at the stars and moon, pretends to think hard for a moment, then says, “Yes , now is the time for Yapoocha!?”

The “Indians” then make a line, and start dancing the “Hokey Pokey”

“Yapoocha left hand in, yapoocha left hand out...”

The following is copied from a handout that was given out at Leader Training..

Why We Do What We Do

We may wonder why we do what we do.

Why do we spend hours training to be a leader?

Why do we use so much of our time to prepare programs, activities and events when so few

bother to turn up, or if they do; never utter a word of thanks for all our efforts.

They can find all the time in the world to complain about what we do, yet do little or nothing to help avoid the mistakes for which they hold us responsible.

Why do we do what we do?

We do it because, at least, it’s doing something for someone.

We do it because we enjoy it.

It may be because if we don’t do it, nobody else will.

It may be because we feel a guilt about not doing enough.

It may be because if we aren’t part of the solution, we are part of the problem.

We are given a gift of talents abilities and knowledge...All of which we believe we should share.

We are given this gift of a young person to care for, someone whom we can mould, shape and

prepare for the harsh realities of the world outside...the equivalent of that unexposed film,

blank cassette or video tape just waiting for us to provide the images and sounds that will be an integral part of that your person’s being.

